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THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

By ADELA C. BRETON

THE third session of this Congress (*Congrès International des Sciences Historiques*) was held in London under the patronage of the King, April 3-9, and brought together a large number of distinguished men from all parts of the world. More than three hundred delegates were appointed by universities and other institutions, and the members and associates numbered eleven hundred. In the scheme of work laid out, all the main lines of human activity were included as departments of historical study. There were nine sections and as many sub-sections. Twelve or fourteen of them met simultaneously in buildings some distance apart, so that it was impossible for any person to hear more than a very small proportion of the two hundred papers, and the attendance was less than it would otherwise have been. Two general meetings were also held, at each of which four of the more important papers were given. The central bureau at the Grafton Galleries proved a great convenience, but abstracts of papers had to be obtained at the respective sections when the papers were read.

At the opening meeting, the address of the president, the Rt. Hon. James Bryce, was read in his absence by the acting president, Dr A. W. Ward, Master of Peterhouse, and printed copies were distributed. In it Mr Bryce noted the widening in recent years of the field of History, so that it is now regarded as a record of every form of human effort and achievement, concerned not only with political events and institutions, but with all the other factors that have molded man, and including the study of the psychology of races and peoples in successive stages of their growth. He alluded to the changes in the condition of the weaker and more backward races who are vanishing under the impact of civilized man, and dwelt on the importance of recording the expiring forms of speech

and the embodiments in custom of primitive human thought, whilst, on the other hand, fresh examples of race-blending are presenting themselves for study.

The address was followed by a speech from the Chilean Minister, Don Agustin Edwards, on the historical evolution of Latin America. He said, in part: "The nations of Latin America, as they are constituted at present, grew up in the course of the nineteenth century and it is since their independence that they have begun to evolve that community of experiences, feelings, ideas, and interests which constitutes the history of a people. In spite of their common origin, these nations are perfectly defined, having different temperaments, feelings peculiarly their own, and a clear consciousness of their political unity and entity. This arises partly from the fact that the conquerors were not natives of the same Spanish province. Thus, in Chile the predominating Iberian element is of Basque origin. Many names testify to this, and also the calm, reflective, and vigorous character of the inhabitants. But Peru owes the bulk of her settlers to Castilla and Andalusia; hence the vivacious, intelligent, and somewhat dreamy disposition of that people. Amongst all these nations there is growing a consciousness of solidarity, of the essential unity of their ideas and interests, and a patriotism wider than the frontiers of this or that Republic."

In Section I (Oriental History and Egyptology), Mr D. Hogarth's presidential address was on "Hittite Civilization in Syria." Certain large questions are being investigated in the light of the British Museum's exploration at Carchemish. The results so far obtained there suggest that Cappadocian civilization was new to Syria in the fourteenth century B.C., and that it was superimposed on an indigenous culture which persisted beneath and was never greatly affected by it. The Hatti race was never represented in North Syria by more than a few garrisons and officials. The great majority of "Hittite" works of art found in Syria are apparently not Hittite but Aramæan, or indigenous Syrian works, and historians in the future must distinguish sharply between the large area occupied by Hatti culture and a comparatively small one occupied by the Hatti race.

Prof. E. Meyer gave the results of an expedition that he sent to Egypt last winter for the purpose of copying all representations of foreign races on the ancient monuments. Prof. G. Steindorff's paper on "The Ancient Libyans (from Egyptian Sources)" described the frequency with which they are mentioned throughout the history of Egypt, from the fourth millenary B.C. onward. Either they were at war with Egypt, or subject for a time, or serving as mercenaries in the Egyptian army until, in the XXII dynasty, three kings were Libyans.

"The Relation of Cyprus and Egypt under the Empire (B.C. 1600-1100)" was treated by Mr H. R. Hall. The discoveries in Crete have now enabled us to date, with fair precision, the coming of Aegean or Mycenaean culture to Cyprus, at the beginning of the third Mycenaean period (corresponding to the third late Minoan period in Crete) and the middle period of the XVIII dynasty. The archeological evidence of connection with Egypt at this time is very full. We find the connection continuing through the period of the raids of the Peoples of the Sea, whereas all communication between Egypt and Crete and the Aegean was cut off. There is archeological evidence of connection in the time of Rameses III. The settlement of the Philistines in Palestine brought the period of acute maritime disturbance to an end, sea-borne commerce revived, and the later connection may have been directly from the Nile ports.

In "Ancient Arabian Poetry as a Source of Historical Information," Sir Charles Lyall showed the importance of understanding the conditions in Arabia before the conquests of Islam. These can be learned only from the ancient poetry, and the earliest pieces preserved date from the end of the fifth century A.D. The poems require the assistance of tribal tradition for their interpretation. They should be translated and the relevant traditional matter should be carefully studied to make known to the world the valuable and interesting pictures of life which they afford.

Prof. Freiherr von Bissing put forward a theory for the "Reconstruction of the Palaces of the Persian Kings." He thinks that even as early as the time of Cyrus the palace was a basilica and that the palace-towers may be restored from the funeral towers of

Persepolis and other places. It is possible that this peculiar form of building may be traced back beyond Cyrus to the Medes and that the Hittite *bêt khillani*, as well as certain foreign features in Assyrian work, are to be explained by the influence of the early builders of Ecbatana or their ancestors. Prof. Paul Koschaker gave a learned German paper on the importance and problems of a "History of Babylonian-Assyrian Law."

Turning to India, Prof. A. Macdonell, in an account of the "Early History of Caste," said that the caste system has impressed on the civilization of India a unique character for more than 2,500 years. In the oldest Veda (before 1000 B.C.) the castes are yet unknown (except in one hymn of its latest chronological stratum). But we already find the elements of the earlier caste system: the three Aryan occupational classes, as opposed to the subject aborigines. The transformation of the earlier Vedic classes into the castes of the later Vedic period was due to the deep racial dividing-line of color between the Aryans and aborigines, resulting in the prohibition of marriage between the races. This led to a similar prohibition between the Aryan classes. In the later Vedas the fundamental castes are mentioned as four, and are constantly enumerated by name in the same order, the Brahmins coming first. At the present day, the typical form of caste is that based on occupation. But tribes, groups of half-breeds, and religious sects have been transformed into castes in modern times.

Sir William Lee-Warner's paper on "Evolution of Indian History" defined History as being mainly concerned with men's actions in molding their civil constitution so as to satisfy their instinctive desire for personal freedom. In India there was a transition between 1500 B.C. and 1206 A.D. from a pastoral Indo-Aryan community enjoying personal liberty to a medley of separate despotisms, in which the priestly caste monopolized temporal and spiritual power. The Muhammadans, A.D. 1206-1788, broke the sacerdotal ascendancy in the north. The British secured the public peace and defence of India, and abolished by legislation slavery, sati, and caste-disabilities.

"The Nationality of the Kushanas" was treated by Prof. Sten

Konow. The so-called Indo-Scythian tribes founded an empire in India and neighboring countries after being driven from their habitats in central Asia by Turkish tribes. Discoveries in eastern Turkestan have now informed us of the existence of two hitherto unknown Indo-European languages, of which one was spoken in Turfan and the other apparently in Khotan. Baron von Staäl-Holstein maintains that the old Khotan tongue was probably the same as that spoken by the Kushana and related tribes. Prof. Konow drew attention to some philological facts which support this latter view.

"Die historische Stellung Armeniens in Altertum," by Prof. Lehmann-Haupt, was illustrated by slides of very ancient remains at Van, and was followed by a discussion on the origin and extreme antiquity of the people, in which Mr Hogarth took part.

In the Colonial sub-section of Section IV (Modern History) there was an interesting series of papers. Mr E. A. Benians considered "Dutch Policy in Java," especially in relation to the introduction of Western life, and the policy and influence of the Dutch East India Company. The principal factors of the Dutch system were: the preservation of native institutions, the continued rule of the country by its native aristocracy, and the employment of that aristocracy in political work. Close relations between the native aristocracy and the Dutch were thus brought about, with intermarriage. Prof. Bernard Moses, in the "Relation of the United States to the Philippine Islands," described a different method. American democratic ideas influenced the formation of a government for the islands. By imparting a knowledge of Western practical achievements, and providing access to European ideas by the teaching of English, the improvement of the people was sought. An obstacle was presented by the conceit of half-educated Eurasians, but the Filipinos, in spite of political ignorance, were called on to form and conduct a popular assembly. Prof. R. Altamira spoke on "Some Aspects of Spanish Colonial History," and in "Some Features of West Indian History" Sir C. P. Lucas emphasized the vicissitudes of ownership and changes of administration in most of the smaller islands. The Spaniards, conquering

rather than trading or settling, aiming at a continental empire, held the large islands but passed over the small ones. Later comers from Europe found the small islands good jumping-off places for raids on the larger islands and the mainland. Then the islands were found to be exceptionally suited for the production of sugar and they became valuable prizes, so that during wars between European nations, they were frequently taken by one or another and sometimes there was a joint occupancy. With the introduction of beet sugar and the abolition of slavery, the importance of the West Indies rapidly declined.

In Section VIII (Archeology), Mr St George Gray, curator of Taunton Museum, gave a paper with slides, on "The Lake-villages of Somerset." The locality was probably once a basin-shaped estuary open to the Severn sea. The Glastonbury Lake-village was completely excavated and again turfed over, 1892-1907. About ninety dwellings covered three acres, and they were enclosed by a border-palisading of large piles. The dwellings had circular floors of clay, and walls about six feet high, of wattle-and-daub, the conical roof being supported by a central oak post. Meare Lake-village is about 3 miles from the other. Excavations have been conducted there since 1910, and will be continued this summer. The antiquities found include: bronze rings, and brooches of La Tène I and II types, glass and amber beads, hand-made pottery, of which one-seventh is ornamented with incised designs, some of them very intricate. The inhabitants were excellent carpenters and draftsmen. Their furnaces and crucibles show skill in metallurgy, and the bronze-working was of a high order. Weapons are rarely met with, but objects of bone and antler are numerous, especially bobbins, combs, etc., connected with weaving. The human remains of the Glastonbury village were found chiefly outside the palisading, and were of long-headed individuals. The cemeteries are still unknown. The influence of Roman culture had not reached these places when they were abandoned, and the remains belong to the Early Iron Age. They can be seen in the museum at Glastonbury.

Prof. Baldwin Brown's paper on the "Archeological Evidence

Connected with the Teutonic Settlement of Britain" showed that pottery urns of the type known as *Buckelurnen* occur in Schleswig, Hanover, and Holland, and in the northeastern, midland, and East Anglian districts of Britain. Cremated and non-cremated early burials occur all up the Thames, from the Medway nearly to its source. The Thames valley settlers have affinities with Saxons and Angles in other parts, and not with the inhabitants of Kent. No single archeological trace of the presence of Angles of the Pagan period has come to light in Scotland. This seems to show that settlement was later there, for Anglian cemeteries are common in Yorkshire. The distinction in grave-finds between Angles and Saxons agrees with what Bede says of the ethnic differences between the Teutonic settlers in Britain.

There were two Russian sessions in this section, with papers by M. E. von Stern on "Some Newly-discovered Prehistoric Remains in Bessarabia," and M. Pridik, "Recent Acquisitions of the Erémitage." Mons. Pharmakowsky, in "The Archaic Period in South Russia," described the antiquities of Koban, Kalakent, a new find at Joprak-Kalé (Van), the oriental objects in gold and silver found in 1897 by M. Wesselowsky in a Bronze Age tumulus at Maïkop, and others in ivory, bronze, alabaster, Egyptian pottery, etc., showing the influence of ancient Oriental and Greek art in Scythia and the Caucasus. Prof. Rostowzew gave an account of the silver vases in the "Hellenistic Tumuli of South Russia." Powerful states were formed among the Scythian tribes during the period from the fourth to second centuries B.C., with a rich and powerful aristocracy and a highly-developed Greek and Iranian culture. There were sumptuous sepulchers in high tumuli. Amongst the articles found in them are those made to order for Scythian nobles in some Greek towns in Asia Minor, or on the coasts of the Black sea, where the habits and artistic tastes of the Scythians were well known. Other articles were made in some semi-Greek towns in southern Russia. The gold and silver vases are of the highest interest, especially the vase found in the tumulus of Kal-Oba with representations of scenes of Scythian life. Many silver vases of the same kind were discovered in the so-called Tchmireva tomb in the

northern Caucasus. All these demonstrate the fine tastes of the Scythian nobles and the efforts of the artisans to gratify them. M. A. Bobrinskoy gave a list of the gold and silver objects forming the great "Treasure of Poltawa," found in 1912, which, though of later date, points to a still flourishing condition, and intercourse with Byzantium and the East.

Section IX (Related and Auxiliary Sciences) was divided into three sub-sections. The first of these included ethnology, historical geography, topography, and local history. Here were a few papers on American subjects. Dr A. P. Maudslay showed maps to explain "Cortés' Route from Mexico to Honduras," being a comparison of the accounts of the march given by Cortés in his Fifth Letter, and by Bernal Diaz, supplemented by information from the most recent maps and from the speaker's own journeys.

On "The Toltec Question" Dr E. Seler said that, although part of the tradition respecting the Toltecs may be mythical (the life experiences of Quetzalcoatl have all the signs of a moon-myth), some of it has a foundation in historical fact. Recent discoveries have shown that the civilization, hitherto known to us, chiefly at Teotihuacán, was widely spread over the Mexican plateau. These people appear to have been driven out by tribes who came later to the valley of Mexico and its neighborhood, and they may have gradually migrated toward the Atlantic coast, as tradition relates of Quetzalcoatl. Some may have remained behind and have been mixed with the conquerors.

For the "Historical Geography of British Guiana" Mr J. A. de Villiers presented a number of early maps of the region. In historical geography Guiana (Guayana) comprises the territory bounded by the Orinoco, the Rio Negro, the Amazon, and the Atlantic. Though discovered by the Spaniards about 1500, no settlement was formed until 1591, when de Berrio established San Thomé on the Orinoco. In his despatches to the King of Spain he mentioned what was being done "concerning the journey to El Dorado," to which previous expeditions had been directed. There were at least two fairly well accredited sites for the Golden City and both were occupied by a tribe called Mañáos. The more

southerly was on the river Urabaxi, a tributary of the Rio Negro, but Sir W. Raleigh in 1595 accepted de Berrio's view of its location near the equator, in the Guiana hinterland. A unique manuscript map in the British Museum drawn by Sir Walter himself, or under his immediate supervision, has for its principal feature an elongated lake with 37 tributary rivers and with the city of "Manou" at its eastern extremity. The Dutch next came on the scene, and the log-book of an emigrant ship despatched by the Dutch West India Company in 1624, states that there were colonists of at least three years standing on the Essequibo river. When Brazil was abandoned by the Dutch after a great defeat in 1649, numbers of the fugitives, amongst them a large proportion of Portuguese-speaking Jews, established themselves on the Pomeroon river in Guiana. In 1714 the company sent instructions to the Governor in Essequibo to despatch an expedition to seek information on El Dorado. There is plenty of proof that the Dutch at Essequibo were in active intercourse, during the first quarter of the eighteenth century, with the Indians as far off as the Rio Negro by way of the Rio Branco and the Rupununi. Dutch influence extended, therefore, over the whole of the route followed by the Indians who came to them for their trading wares and ammunition. In 1739 Nicolas Horstmann was sent on behalf of the Company to seek a route by inland waterways from Essequibo to the Amazon and endeavor to find El Dorado, said to be situated on Parima, an enormous lake which figures on all the early maps. On the watershed of two great river systems, Horstmann found only the small Lake Amucu, which at times overflows, and may originally have been larger.

Prof. Witton Davies drew attention to the distinction between "Magic and Witchcraft," often forgotten by scholars and writers who employ the words "witch" and "witchcraft" for "female magician" and "magic." Writers on Indian, Babylonian, Egyptian, and Hebrew religion have been guilty of this. Masculine nouns have been rightly translated "magician," "sorcerer." The feminine forms of these nouns are often rendered "witch," but this word means something essentially different from "magician." From the Teutonic peoples and the Christian Church, witchcraft came

to have the sense now usually attached to it. The witch of the Middle Ages was a woman believed to have bargained her soul to the Devil in return for certain powers. An examination of the words used in the literature of the Babylonians, Assyrians, and Hebrews makes it clear that among these peoples witchcraft in the strict sense did not exist. In the discussion on this paper an account was given of the active belief in the power of a witch still prevalent in the west of Ireland.

In Section IXc, Mr ffoulkes described "The Armouries of the Tower of London," where the collection is the oldest in Europe. Many of the specimens are to be found in an inventory taken in 1547, and there is reason to suppose they were there long before that date. In 1455 there was an inventory of armor, swords, and banners, but without sufficient detail. Since a recent rearrangement the provenance of each piece is historically established.

The other sections also provided many interesting papers. Professor I. Gollancz, general secretary, and Professor Whitney, the secretary for papers, worked hard to insure the success of the congress. Each section had its own president, vice-president, and secretary, who were responsible for the business of their sections. Entertainments of all kinds were provided, and the British Government gave a banquet to the foreign and colonial delegates, at which 400 persons were present, followed by a reception for the other members. Many historic houses were opened to them, and Mr John Murray afforded to a few the opportunity to inspect his precious manuscripts of Byron's poems and other treasures. By command of the King, five hundred members were invited to tea at Windsor Castle, and the Archbishop of Canterbury gave a reception at Lambeth Palace. The Record Office and the authorities of the British Museum also combined instruction with entertainment. An excursion to Cambridge and the delightful hospitality of some members of the University closed the festivities. The next Congress will be held at St Petersburg.